



Local Food Resource Hubs Network Helps Residents Grow Fresh Produce

Did You Know?

90% of the
Hub members
surveyed plan
to join the
Hubs
Network
again!

Local Food Resource Hubs Network (Hubs Network)

The goal of the Hubs Network is to provide its members with the resources and education they need to grow, preserve, cook, and compost their own fresh produce, thus increasing access to healthy foods. In the first year of the project, there were three Hubs located in Northside, Phillips, and Southside areas of the city. The Hubs Network is a partnership between the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support and Homegrown Minneapolis, Gardening Matters and other community partners. It was a recommendation from Homegrown Minneapolis, a comprehensive city and community initiative to create a local, healthy, and sustainable food system.

Program Activities

The three Hubs (North Minneapolis, Phillips/Ventura Village, and Southside) included 377 individual members and 45 community garden members. The Hubs Network distributed more than 13,000 seed packets and 15,000 seedlings at two resource distribution days. Members attended a variety of classes on how to plant and maintain gardens, how to compost, and how to preserve produce, among other things. They also hosted social events, completed projects such as starting new community gardens and tool lending libraries and founded a Stewardship Council with representatives from each Hub to guide the project.

Evaluation

We conducted evaluation to better understand the practices, skills, needs and experiences of Hubs Network members during the 2011 season. We collected data from multiple sources:

- Member Surveys of Household and Community Garden members
- Member Discussions at a Fall Event
- Bi-monthly Hub Leader Check-in Phone Calls
- End of Season Stakeholder Interviews
- Garden Harvest Estimates

Members were surveyed in the spring (280 responses, 64% response rate) and fall (117 responses, 31% response rate). Respondents represented all three Hubs, about 77% were women, their average age was 45, about 78% of respondents were White, and over half had 5 or more years of gardening experience

Hub Members Share...

"It made a difference in my health and how I feel about my neighborhood."

"It was a great way to get started gardening for the first time."



Homegrown Minneapolis



Key Evaluation Findings

- Overall, members feel connected to their communities. Additionally, Hub members desire more opportunities to engage with each other.
- Among Household Garden members, community-level knowledge increased in five areas: food preservation, making meals with fresh produce, organic gardening, planning and planting a garden and maintaining and harvesting a garden. Members have the most knowledge about making meals with fresh produce.
- Many members experienced food insecurity: in the past year, 45% of household garden members had to cut the size of meals or skip meals because there was not enough money for food.
- Hub members and leaders volunteered an estimated total of 4,236 hours in the first year!
- Nine volunteers piloted a Garden Harvest Estimation Tool, which they used to measure their garden harvest. Together, they grew an estimated 542 pounds of food.
- 7 languages were heard in Community Gardens: English, Spanish, Hmong, Dakota, Russian, Somali, and another African language.

Program Changes for 2012

Based on member feedback and evaluation findings, some key changes include:

- Offering 3 membership package options, sliding scale membership fees, and scholarships
- Hosting earlier distribution events and improving labeling of seeds and seedlings
- Offering a mentor program to promote skill sharing
- Coordinating more social opportunities and Hub events
- Conducting targeted outreach to increase membership from under-served groups
- Welcoming the Northeast/Southeast Minneapolis Hub and the St. Paul Midway Hub to the Network

Thank you!

Thank you to all members who participated in the evaluation activities! Your input is greatly valued. For detailed evaluation information and results, please visit: www.gardeningmatters.org

For more information, contact the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support: www.minneapolismn.gov/dhfs or 612-673-2301.

Made possible with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at (612) 673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may use a relay service to call 311 agents at (612) 673-3000. TTY users may call (612) 673-2157 or (612) 673-2626.

Attention: If you have any questions regarding this material please call 311 or 612-673-2301.

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu (612) 673-2800

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame (612) 673-2700

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac (612) 673-3500